Naval Museum in Vizag

1074. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Naval Museum in Vizag;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount sanctioned therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Improvement of Facilities at Tourist Resorts

1075. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that poor facilities at tourist resorts are becoming a major hurdle for the growth of tourism industry; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to improve infrastructure facilities at all the tourist places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Growth of tourism in the country depends on several factors. Foreign tourist traffic to India has increased from 2.29 million in 1996 to 2.48 million in 1999 and foreign exchange earnings have also increased from Rs. 9920 crores in 1996 to Rs. 13042 crores in 1999.

(b) Improvement of infrastructure facilities at tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Department of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance to State Government/UT Administrations for tourism projects

prioritised in consultation with them. This assistance is provided for improvement in infrastructure facilities including Wayside Amenities, Signages, Public Conveniences, Parking Areas, Tourist Reception Centres etc.

Promotion of Magic

1076. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are promoting various cultural activities including showing of magic;

(b) if so, what is the total amount earmarked for promotion of magic in the country;

(c) whether any scheme has been launched or incentives have been given for promotion of this culture; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Government promotes various cultural activities including magic through identified schemes and Zonal Cultural Centres. There is no specific scheme for promotion of magic and hence no separate amount has specifically been earmarked for magic.

Water allocation to various states

1077. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water policy was formulated in 1986 and there is a need for its revision due to water allocation to various States;

(b) whether Government have finalised to guidelines for water allocation; and

(c) by when the new water policy is likely to be framed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The National Water Policy was adopted in 1987 in the 2nd meeting of